

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9 – 13 and 20 - 26 are currently pending in this application.

Rejection of the Title

The title has been amended to correctly reflect the claimed subject matter.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings have been amended to delete references to “10” and “72”. Reference to 28 has been added and reference to 26 has been corrected. The specification has been amended at paragraph 0024 to delete the reference 72. A replacement sheet is attached.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 112 is now considered moot in view of the amendment to claims 1 and 3.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 12, 14, and 19 were rejected as anticipated by McCreery. McCreery discloses an inner bag with a replaceable outer cover. However, McCreery fails to disclose or suggest a protective inner lining on said replaceable outer cover. Claims 1 and 14 as amended include this limitation. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 is now moot in view of this new limitation. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 12 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable in view of the amended claim.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 19 were rejected as anticipated by Restivo. Restivo discloses a handbag system having replaceable outer covers. The inner handbag is not usable without an outer cover attached to it. Also, the outer covers do not include a protective inner lining. Thus claim 1 is not anticipated by Restivo in view of the limitation of the inner handbag usable by itself as well as in view of the new limitation of the protective lining.

Claim 2 requires upper flaps that engage the inner handbag to secure the handbag within the outer cover. Restivo discloses upper flaps on the inner handbag that engage the outer cover. Thus Restivo does not anticipate this claimed limitation.

Claims 7, and 12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the above reasons.

Claim 11 includes the limitation of partially open sides on the outer cover to allow access to the handbag fastening mechanism through those partially open sides. The handbag fastening mechanism of Restivo is only accessible from the upper part of the outer handbag. Thus this claim is not anticipated by Restivo.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14 and 19 were rejected as anticipated by Grogan. Grogan fails to disclose an inner protective lining as set forth in amended claim 1. Thus Grogan does not anticipate these claims.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and are allowable for the above reason.

Claim 13 includes the limitation of reinforcement tabs formed on the outer cover in the shape of zipper pulls on the handbag to provide an echo of the zipper pulls. Grogan fails to disclose this feature. The members 32 of Grogan are simply straps and snaps not reinforcement tabs. Thus claim 13 is allowable for this reason as well as the above reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected as obvious over the different combinations of the above references in view of Salz. Salz does not disclose a protective inner lining on the outer cover. There is no disclosure of the claimed limitations nor is there any disclosed suggestion, teaching or motivation for modifying the devices of the above references to achieve the claimed limitations of claims 1 and 14.

Claims 3, 7 and 9 depend from claim 1 as amended and are thus considered allowable.

Claims 8, 10 and 17 were rejected as obvious of the above references in view of Sutton. Although Sutton was cited as disclosing a protective inner lining on an outer cover, a thorough review of this reference fails to disclose a replaceable outer cover having a protective inner lining to prevent scuffing of the inner handbag. There is no disclosure of the claimed limitations nor is there any disclosed suggestion, teaching or motivation for modifying the devices of the above references to achieve the claimed limitations of claim 1. Thus claim 1 should be allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 10 depends from claim 1 respectively and are thus allowable.

New claim 20 is added having the limitation of an inner handbag usable by itself, an outer cover and an upper flap that engage the handbag to secure the handbag within the outer cover. Restivo only discloses an inner handbag that can not be used by itself. The outer cover is engaged by outer flaps that engage the outer cover not the handbag. Thus claim 20 should be allowable over the cited prior art.

New claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 20 and are thus allowable. Further claim 22 includes a protective inner lining that is not disclosed by the prior art.

New claim 23 includes the limitation of reinforcement tabs on the outer cover formed in the shape of zipper pulls on the inner handbag. None of the prior art references show this feature. Thus claims 23 – 25 should be allowable.

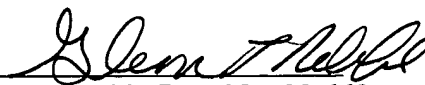
New claim 26 includes the limitation of a magnetic fastening system contained in the lining of the outer cover. None of the prior art references show this feature. Thus claim 26 should be allowable.

The pending claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if further discussions would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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